GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINORITY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:846
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2007
PROBLEMS BY NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR MINORITIES
Rao Shri Kavuru Samba Siva

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the problems being faced by the National Commission for Minorities (NCM) in safeguarding the rights and interests of minorities as provided under the constitution;

(b) whether the Government proposes to amend the constitution to empower the Commission with powers to investigate and monitor all matters while safeguarding the interests of minorities ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS(A. R. ANTULAY)

(a): Absence of powers to investigate and monitor matters regarding the safeguards provided to minorities is considered as one of the reasons inhibiting the Commission from doing so more effectively.

(b) & (c): The Constitution (One Hundred and Third Amendment) Bill, 2004, to confer constitutional status on the National Commission for Minorities was introduced in the Lok Sabha in December, 2004. The Standing Committee on Social Justice & Empowerment, which examined the Bill, has recommended, inter alia, that the Bill should provide for powers of investigation and monitoring to the Commission. Official amendments to the Bill have not been moved as yet.